

14. (New) The timing device as set forth in claim 12, wherein the one or more discrete time units includes a discrete time unit corresponding to one hour.

15. (New) A timing device for timing discrete periods of time, the device comprising:  
at least one timer operable to measure the passing of a particular period of time without reference to an actual time of a day, with the length of the particular period of time being setable and the setability being limited to multiples of one or more discrete time units;

at least one input device operable to allow for setting the length of the particular period of time, wherein measurement of the particular period of time is initiated automatically following setting of the particular period of time;

a controller operable to provide feedback signals relating to the operation of and operative mode of the timing device, and further operable to produce an alarm signal; and

at least one speaker operable to communicate the feedback signals and the alarm signal.

16. (New) The timing device as set forth in claim 15, wherein the one or more discrete time units includes a discrete time unit corresponding to fifteen minutes.

17. (New) The timing device as set forth in claim 15, wherein the one or more discrete time units includes a discrete time unit corresponding to one hour.

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18. (New) A timing device for timing discrete periods of time, the device comprising:
- at least one timer operable to measure the passing of a particular period of time without reference to an actual time of a day, with the length of the particular period of time being setable and the setability being limited to multiples of two or more discrete time units, wherein the two or more discrete time units include a first discrete time unit corresponding to fifteen minutes and a second discrete time unit corresponding to one hour;
  - at least one input device operable to allow for setting the length of the particular period of time, wherein measurement of the particular period of time is initiated automatically following setting of the particular period of time;
  - a controller operable to provide feedback signals relating to the operation of and operative mode of the timing device, and further operable to produce an alarm signal;
  - at least one memory device operable to record and store a message for future playback;
  - at least one speaker operable to communicate the feedback signals, the alarm signal, and the message; and
  - an ear-phone jack operable to connect one or more earphones to the timing device and operable to communicate the feedback signals, the alarm signal, and the message, wherein the speaker is disabled while the ear-phone jack is in use.
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